

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 17842 01 OF 02 101413Z

46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 SP-02 USIA-06
AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04
OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 CU-02 IO-13 ACDA-07 MC-02
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
PRS-01 IGA-02 ERDA-05 NRC-05 OES-06 EUR-12 /140 W
----- 077322

R 101245Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9990

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USLO PEKING

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KABUL

CINCPAC HAWAII

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NEW DELHI 17842

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGGS: PFOR, IN, PK

SUBJECT: A POSITIVE VIEW OF INDIA/PAKISTAN RELATIONS--
THE GOI PERSPECTIVE

SUMMARY: THE GOI SEES PROGRESS AND NORMALCY IN ITS
BILATERAL TIES WITH PAKISTAN, CITING DEVELOPMENTS IN TRADE,
THIRD-COUNTRY AFFAIRS (BANGLADESH AND AFGHANISTAN), CULTURAL
AND SOCIAL MATTERS, BOUNDARY WATER AND MARITIME BOUNDARY
QUESTIONS, AND MOVEMENT OF PERSONS AND EXCHANGE OF
DETAINEES, TO JUSTIFY ITS OPTIMISM. THE PAKISTAN EMBASSY
IS LESS SANGUINE, PROTESTING THAT GOI ATTEMPTS TO
DEMONSTRATE NORMALCY IN THE ABSENCE OF A RESOLUTION
OF THE KASHMIR PROBLEM ARE MISLEADING. THE GOI
CONTINUES TO ARGUE AN A-7 SALE WOULD UPSET THE POSITIVE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 17842 01 OF 02 101413Z

TRENDS IN SOUTH ASIA. THE PAKISTAN EMBASSY RESPONDS

THAT INDIA IS WILLING TO DISCUSS CONVENTIONAL
ARMS LIMITATIONS--FOR PAKISTAN,NOT INDIA. END
SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY OFFICERS THIS WEEK PAID LENGTHY CALLS ON
I. P. SINGH, JOINT SECRETARY FOR PAKISTAN/AFGHANISTAN
AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (MEA) AND
PAKISTANI POLITICAL COUNSELOR MUJAHID HUSAIN IN ORDER
TO REVIEW DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIA/PAKISTAN RELATIONS.
WE FOUND THE INDIAN CONSIDERABLY MORE POSITIVE THAN THE
PAKISTANI, WITH THE LATTER TAKING THE VIEW THAT IT WOULD
BE DISADVANTAGEOUS FOR PAKISTAN IF INDIA WERE TO
SUCCESSFULLY PROJECT AN IMAGE OF NORMALCY AND HARMONY
IN BILATERAL RELATIONS WHILE KASHMIR REMAINS AN ISSUE.
HUSAIN ADMITTED, HOWEVER, TO PROGRESS OR NORMALCY
IN CERTAIN FIELDS, ALTHOUGH HE WAS CONSIDERABLY MORE
RESTRAINED THAN I. P. SINGH. WE ARE POUCHING A
DETAILED MEMCON OF OUR CONVERSATION WITH THE LATTER.
THIS TELEGRAM INCORPORATES HIGHLIGHTS FROM THAT
CONVERSATION INTERLACED WITH HUSAIN'S MORE SOBERING
COMMENTARY ON THE SAME SUBJECTS.

2. ARMS CONTROL AND A-7S: IN PERHAPS THE MOST
IMPORTANT TOPIC, BOTH SINGH AND HUSAIN SAID THE SUBJECT
OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS CONTROL WAS RAISED IN BILATERAL CONVER-
SATION IN ISLAMABAD THIS YEAR. THE INDIAN DIPLOMAT SAID THE
PAKISTANIS AGREE IN PRINCIPLE BUT BACK AWAY FROM ANY DISCUSSION
OF DETAIL IN THIS AREA. THE PAKISTANI, APPEARING LESS SURE OF
HIS GROUND, SAID THE INDIANS ARE NEVER WILLING TO DISCUSS THE
SUBJECT IN ANY MEANINGFUL WAY. HUSAIN ARGUED THAT THE GOI
WANTS TO LIMIT PAKISTAN'S ACQUISITION OF ARMS, BUT
NOT ACCEPT ANY CONTROLS ON INDIAN ARMS LEVELS, AND
POINTED TO THE PAKISTANI DESIRE TO ACQUIRE THE A-7
AS A CASE IN POINT. SINGH TOLD US AN A-7 SALE TO PAKISTAN
WOULD CAUSE AN ARMS RACE IN SOUTH ASIA AND REVERSE THE
PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION IN THE AREA. THE INDIAN DIPLOMAT
ARGUED THAT ALTHOUGH THE GOI APPRECIATES THE US DESIRE
TO FORESTALL NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, THE GOI QUESTIONS
THIS NEED BE DONE AT THE EXPENSE OF INDIAN SECURITY.
THE GOI LIKEWISE HOPES THE GOAL OF KEEPING THE A-7
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NEW DE 17842 01 OF 02 101413Z

PRODUCTION LINE OPEN WILL NOT RESULT IN FILLING THE
PAKISTANI ORDER, LIKEWISE AT THE EXPENSE OF GOI SECURITY.
SINGH ACKNOWLEDGED GOI HAD NOT DISCUSSED A-7 ISSUE WITH
PAKISTANIS SINCE THIS WOULD LEAD NOWHERE. POLCOUNSELOR
SAID WE FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY INDIANS
TOLD US THAT GOP PURCHASE OF A-7S WOULD DAMAGE GRADUALLY
IMPROVING FABRIC OF INDO-PAK RELATIONS, BUT DIDN'T DISCUSS
THIS THEME WITH PAKISTANIS.

3. BANGLADESH: BOTH SIDES SEE BANGLADESH AS A FACTOR BEARING ON BILATERAL RELATIONS. SINGH FELT THE PAKISTANIS HAVE BEHAVED QUITE WELL IN DACCA. HE REPORTED THE GOI HAD NO PROBLEM WITH PAKISTANI SUPPORT FOR THE BANGLADESHI POSITION ON FARAKKA, SUPPORT WHICH SINGH FOUND WAS REASONABLE AND RESTRAINED. HUSAIN SAID PAKISTAN AS A LOWER RIPARIAN COUNTRY UNDERSTANDS THE FARAKKA PROBLEM, AND SYMPATHIZES WITH BANGLADESH. AT THE SAME TIME, HUSAIN CONTINUED, PAKISTAN REALIZES THE LIMITS OF ITS INFLUENCE ON THIS QUESTION, AND MORE BRADLY SPEAKING, ON THE WHOLE INDO-BANGLADESH RELATIONSHIP.

4. PAK/AFGHAN RELATIONS: SINGH SAID THE GOI SUPPORTS IMPROVED PAKISTAN/AFTHANISTAN RELATIONS AND THINKS THE DAOUD BHUTTO EXCHANGES ARE SALUTORY. SINGH DOUBTED THERE WOULD BE MUCH FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN THOSE TIES, HOWEVER, UNTIL BHUTTO IS ABLE TO DEAL SUCCESSFULLY WITH THE NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY. HE OBSERVED THAT AN INDIAN AMBASSADOR WOULD RETURN TO KABUL VERY SOON, THE DELAY (TWO MONTHS) SINCE THE LAST INDIAN AMBASSADOR LEFT BEING ATTRIBUTABLE SOLEY TO DEPARTMENTAL PERSONAL PROBLEMS.

5. TRADE: WHILE SINGH WARMLY DESCRIBED THE SUBSTANTIAL IMPROBEMENT IN PAKISTANI PURCHASES IN INDIA (ABOUT RS 100 MILLION PROJECTED FOR THIS FY), HUSAIN TENDED TO BELITTLE THE PRESENT LEVELS OF BILATERAL TRADE AS INSIGNIFICANT, AND LIKELY TO REMAIN THAT WAY. SINGH GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE TREND WAS POSITIVE. THERE WAS DISAGREEMENT AS TO WHETHER INDIAN PURCHASES OF COTTON WOULD CONTINUE THIS YEAR, BUT AGREEMENT THAT PAKISTAN PRODUCED ONLY A LIMITED CROP. SINGH SAID THE GOI HAD CALLED FOR A GENERAL REVIEW OF THE TRADE SITUATION WITH A VIEW TOWARD IDENTIFYING ADDITIONAL PRODUCTS INDIA COULD BUY IN PAKISTAN. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NEW DE 17842 01 OF 02 101413Z

HUSAIN HAD NO DIRECT COMMENT ON AN OFFICIAL REVIEW, BUT DID MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THERE WERE PRODUCT AREAS, BICYCLES, FOR EXAMPLE, WHERE PAKISTAN WOULD NOT PERMIT INDIAN IMPORT COMPETITION.

6. SALAL DAM: SINGH REPORTED THE GOI SEES NO REAL PROBLEM HERE AND BOTH SIDES CLOSE TO AGREEMENT. HUSAIN THOUGHT AGREEMENT MIGHT STILL BE SOME MONTHS OFF. THE PAKISTANI ARGUED THAT THE GOP HAD TO ANTICIPATE THE WORSE POSSIBLE MISUSE OF SALAL--A GOI CAPABILITY OF DAMAGING PAKISTANI DOWNSTREAM INTERESTS, AND DO EVERYTHING IT WOULD TO LIMIT THAT CAPABILITY. HUSAIN SAID THE PRECEDENT OF SALAL WAS IMPORTANT TO THE GOP.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 17842 02 OF 02 101421Z

46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 SP-02
USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15
STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 CU-02 IO-13 ACDA-07 MC-02
IGA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 PRS-01 ERDA-05 NRC-05 OES-06 /140 W
----- 077482

R 101245Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9991
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USLO PEKING
AMCONGEN HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY KABUL
CINCPAC HAWAII

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 NEW DELHI 17842

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

7. VISAS: HUSAIN ADMITTED THE GOI HAS CLEARED ITS BACKLOG OF PAKISTANI VISA APPLICANTS, 37,000 CASES ACCORDING TO SINGH. HUSAIN ANTICIPATES 16 ADDITIONAL STAFFERS FOR THE PAKISTANI EMBASSY IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH RECIPROCITY, BUT PENDING THEIR ARRIVAL THE PAKISTANI ADMITTED THEIR VISA BACKLOG COULD NOT BE REDUCED. SINGH ALSO REPORTED A SPECIAL INDIAN TEAM BEING SENT TO ISLAMABAD TO KEEP THE VISA FLOWING, BUT SAID THE GOI WOULD HOLD THE FIGURE TO ROUGHLY 500 PER DAY WHICH REPRESENTS THE AIR AND RAIL LINK CAPACITY FOR DAILY TRAVELERS.

8. DETAINEES: BOTH SIDES REPORT THE INITIATION OF THE EXCHANGE OF CIVIL DETAINEES APPREHENDED SINCE 1971. THERE APPARENTLY ARE HUNDREDS HELD ON EACH SIDE, PRIMARILY BORDER RESIDENTS WHO INADVERTENTLY STRAYED, SMUGGLERS AND OTHER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 17842 02 OF 02 101421Z

BORDER CROSSERS, AND FUGITIVES. SINGH SAID THE GOI HAD ABSOLUTELY NO INTEREST IN KEEPING ANY OF THESE PEOPLE. HUSAIN WAS MORE CAUTIOUS, POINTING OUT THAT THERE WERE SOME ESPIONAGE AGENTS AMONG THEM. SINGH SPECIFICALLY SAID THE GOI HAD PROPOSED TO EXCHANGE ALL DETAINEES, INCLUDING SECURITY CASES. WE GATHER THE PAKISTANI ENTHUSIASM FOR THIS MOVE IS LIMITED.

9. MARITIME BOUNDARY: SINGH THOUGHT THAT TALKS ON THIS SUBJECT MIGHT OPEN IN EARLY 1977. HUSAIN WAS DOUBTFUL THAT THE GOP WOULD BE PREPARED TO BEGIN THAT EARLY.

10. CULTURAL AND SOCIAL: BOTH PARTIES REPORTED INDIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE ATHLETIC EVENTS MARKING THE JINNAH CENTENARY. SINGH TERMED THIS A "BOLD STEP" BY THE GOI. HE ALSO REPORTED A PAK FILM CREW NOW IN INDIA PREPARING TO SHOOT SCENES FOR A FILM BIOGRAPHY OF JINNAH (APPROVED BY GOI AFTER PAKISTANI ASSURANCES OF CONSIDERATION FOR INDIAN "SENSITIVITIES"), AND THE PRESENCE OF AN INDIAN LEGAL DELEGATION IN KARACHI AT A SEMINAR COMMEMORATING JINNAH'S ROLE AS A JURIST. HUSAIN DID NOT COMMENT ON THESE EVENTS, BUT SAID HE DID NOT ANTICIPATE A WIDE EXCHANGE OF PERFORMING ARTISTS OR FILMS.

11. COMMENT: WHILE THE MEA DIPLOMAT CLEARLY PRESENTED A POSITIVE VIEW STRESSING PROGRESS AND NORMALCY IN THE BILATERAL SECTOR, THE PAKISTANI COUNSELOR WAS ALMOST BEGRUDGING IN HIS ADMISSION THAT THERE WERE AREAS WHERE NORMALCY PREVAILED. INDEED, HUSAIN OPENED THE CONVERSATION WITH THE OBSERVATION THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO IF THE OPPOSITION COULD ASSERT THE GOP HAD ACCEPTED NORMALCY WHILE THE KASHMIR PROBLEM REMAINED UNSETTLED. SINGH'S PRESENTATION EXUDED CONFIDENCE AND SATISFACTION. HUSAIN TOOK A MUCH MORE NEGATIVE APPROACH. SINGH MAY HAVE PAINTED THE BRIGHTEST POSSIBLE PICTURE TO SUPPORT HIS ARGUMENT THAT A U.S. A-7 SALE TO PAKISTAN WOULD JEOPARDIZE THIS IDYLIC SCENE. HE MAY ALSO BE PUTTING THE BEST POSSIBLE CONSTRUCTION ON INDIA'S STATUS QUO POLICY, A FACTOR THAT OUR PAKISTANI INTERLOCUTOR FORESAW AND ABOUT WHICH HE PROTESTED VIGOROUSLY, EVEN THOUGH HE HAD NO SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE OF OUR CONVERSATION WITH SINGH.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NEW DE 17842 02 OF 02 101421Z

SCHNEIDER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, CONCILIATION, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NEWDE17842
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760456-0890
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761254/aaaabumz.tel
Line Count: 275
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <03 SEP 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: A POSITIVE VIEW OF INDIA/PAKISTAN RELATIONS-- THE GOI PERSPECTIVE SUMMARY: THE GOI SEES PROGRESS AND NORMALCY IN ITS
TAGS: PFOR, IN, PK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006